

achievements of African American baseball players who played for the love of the game, despite the color barriers at that time that kept them out of the Majors. He is also actively involved in utilizing the Museum to assist in the education of youth in the community through programs such as "Reading Around the Bases" where elementary school students learn from community readers about the pioneers of the Negro Leagues. I was honored to be asked to read from "second base" to a group of students as part of celebrating Buck's 88th birthday party. Buck participates in the Negro Leagues Museum's "Night of the Harvest Moon" program on Halloween night. It provides area children a safe alternative from the traditional to door-to-door trick or treating. More than 16,000 children have participated in the event over the past five years.

Our "Hometown Hero" is very active in various charitable causes within the community. He lends his name and energy to sponsor the Buck O'Neil Golf Classic, a fundraiser for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In the past four years, the event has raised nearly \$400,000 for the organizations. For the past seven years, the Kansas City Securities Association, Inc. Educational Endowment Fund has given four-year scholarships to graduating high school students in honor of Negro Leagues players, one each year in honor of Buck O'Neil. And Buck still keeps on giving. This entire birthday week is dedicated to giving. Buck wants to fill the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum for his birthday, so the museum is trying to get 9,100 people to the museum in honor of Buck's 91st year. Yesterday, Buck's actual birthday, tickets to the museum were only a dollar all day, and the 91st person to walk through the door won an assortment of prizes. On Friday, November 15, Buck will get together with friends for "Givin' Buck the Blues", a star-studded celebrity roast in his honor and donate all of the nights proceeds to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. And there is no indication that Buck will ever slow down. He started his birthday on the radio, left to read to children, spoke at a news conference, and headlined a Project S.O.S. dinner to help kids get school supplies and clothes. The amazing thing about all of this is that he still finds time to give hugs, give autographs, speak to church groups, and throw baseballs to the small children who frequently walk up to him. Buck has risen to national prominence with his moving narration of the Negro Leagues as part of Ken Burns' PBS baseball documentary. He has been the source of countless national interviews including appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman," and "Late, Late Show with Tom Snyder," and being interviewed numerous times on the Jim Rome Show, a nationally syndicated sports radio program. Mr. Rome has talked to Buck so often because Buck had such rich experiences to share about various baseball players, and baseball in general. He states that Buck was one of the most interesting interviews he had ever had on his show.

On his 90th birthday, the City of Kansas City, Missouri named a street in his honor one block north of 18th and Vine, the area that houses the Negro Leagues Museum as well as the American Jazz Museum. The street's new name is John "Buck" O'Neil Way. I look forward to the day in the near future when the Baseball Hall of Fame Veterans Committee

recognizes our hometown hero for his accomplishments on and off the baseball field and approve his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In addition to his work in Cooperstown and at the museum in Kansas City, Buck has found new and exciting ways to enjoy life and spread his infectious charm and warm spirit. He is a local hero whose recognition for service is recognized at home and nationally. Buck and the Negro Leagues are to be honored with an award from the "100 Black Men" in New York on November 14, 2002. He was given the Trumpet Award in 1999 by the Turner Broadcasting System saluting him for achievements to African Americans. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International conferred on Buck its "Paul Harris Fellow" in appreciation of his "... furthering better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." Kansas State University bestowed upon him the "Lifetime Leadership Award" in "recognition for leadership, community involvement, commitment to diversity, and life long record of contribution to the public." Buck has received numerous awards in recognition of his work in the community and assistance to various organizations. Some of these awards are: the United States Army Award for Outstanding Support of Army recruiting in Kansas City, the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurion Leadership Award, the State Historical Society of Missouri Distinguished Service Award, and the 2001 Jewish Community Center Ewing Kauffman Outstanding Achievement Award. As an award winning baseball player, esteemed baseball manager and scout, decorated veteran, and humanitarian Buck exemplifies excellence in public service and his career serves as a beacon for generations to come. He symbolizes the spirit of American patriotism and is a role model for us all. With all that Buck has done and all that he continues to do for Kansas City and the nation, one might wonder what Kansas City will give Buck for his birthday. Buck simply says, "If I could just see that museum overflowing, it would make my heart sing. That's all I want for my birthday." Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the many lives Buck has touched will return the favor on this birthday and many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil. It is an honor and a privilege to join in the 91st birthday celebration of an American hero, a national treasure, a symbol of African American pride, and one of Kansas City's favorite sons. Buck's favorite song is "The Greatest Thing In All My Life, is Loving You." Buck, I love you, salute you and your heroic accomplishments, and am delighted and privileged to know such a patriot and to call you my friend. Thank you, Buck.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEADERSHIP

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Bush's courageous leadership in securing bipartisan Congressional and unanimous U.N. support to disarm Iraq. The threat of nuclear, biological,

and chemical weapons being transferred from Saddam Hussein to group like al Qaeda is a real threat to America and our allies.

I also want to praise President Bush's initiatives in strengthening our important relationship with India. Over the past 10 years, bilateral trade between the U.S. and India more than tripled from 6 billion to 19 billion per year. We have continued to engage in joint military exercises, and we share common goals and concerns.

One major goal is to dramatically increase bilateral trade. We have made significant advances in this area, but more remains to be done. We share the common threat of international terrorism from al Qaeda, and we must continue to share intelligence and coordinate counterterrorism strategies through our joint task force on terrorism.

U.S.-India security cooperation is helping to foster greater stability in Asia and to make for a safer world. U.S.-India joint military exercises were held in Alaska from September 29 to October 11, involving troops from the U.S. Army 1st Battalion 501st Para Infantry Regiment and from India's 50 (I) Para Brigade. These exercises followed a joint airborne military exercise between the two countries held at Agra, India, in May of this year. As reported in the Washington Times on October 9, India's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, traveled to Alaska to observe the exercises. The Ambassador was welcomed by Brigadier General John M. Brown 111, Commander of the U.S. Army Alaska at Fort Richardson, who expressed his appreciation for the professionalism, discipline and adaptability of the Indian armed forces.

Also last month, a major joint U.S.-India naval exercise, named "Malabar IV," was successfully completed in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. and Indian Navies have agreed to jointly patrol the Strait of Malacca to ensure the uninterrupted flow of vital oil supplies. The U.S.-India Defense Planning Group has been established to help coordinate ongoing joint activities, while the Executive Steering Groups of all the three defense services are scheduled to meet again later this year to plan future joint exercises, training and other areas of cooperation for the next year.

Earlier this fall, India once again demonstrated that it is indeed a democracy, where power is transferred by means of free and fair elections, with the conclusion on October 7th of a four-stage election for the Assembly in India's State of Jammu and Kashmir. Despite the ongoing threat of violence by terrorist elements—most of which come from outside of India's borders—to intimidate voters and candidates alike, the elections went—forward successfully, as judged by the United States and other independent observers. Turnout was approximately 45 percent, and the result was a defeat for the ruling party—its own indication that the elections were truly democratic.

As the Washington Times reported on October 14 ("Embassy Row" column by James Morris), "The United States is praising the bravery of voters in Kashmir who defied threats from Islamic militants to vote in large numbers this month." The article quotes the U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, who said, "It was a successful election. The election commission did a very fine job. It was a credible election carried out by democratic means."

Other top U.S. officials have echoed these sentiments. The Assistant Secretary of State

for South Asia, Christina Rocca, in a speech last month at the American Enterprise Institute, said that 'Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "personal commitment to making them [the elections] transparent and open" was a critical factor in moving the democratic process forward.'

Ambassador Blackwill did not mince words when it came to describing the guerrillas that used violence in an effort to disrupt the elections, calling them "terrorists." "Terrorists can call themselves many different things at different places," our Ambassador said. "Sometimes they are called freedom fighters. Any person who kills civilians is a terrorist."

Mr. Speaker, America knows how it feels to be a democracy targeted by terrorists. India has for many years endured the same experience. In fact, the terrorist elements targeting India in Kashmir have links to the same Al Qaeda terrorist network that attacked America on 9/11 and was apparently responsible for the bombing in Indonesia last month. I have spoken out on several occasions this year about the terrorist attacks against Kashmiri civilians, and I have urged the leaders of Pakistan to stop allowing their country to be used as a base for terrorist training camps and extremist religious clerics who foment hate against both India and America.

Unfortunately, the opposite may be happening. On November 12, the Orlando Sentinel, and other publications, reported that, "U.S. intelligence says most of al-Qaeda's surviving leaders have relocated to Pakistan." The newspaper noted that U.S. forces cannot operate in Pakistan as they have in Afghanistan, due to concerns that an American military presence would anger Pakistan. Therefore, we must press President Musharraf to take control of this situation.

Assistant Secretary Rocca stated in her speech that the U.S. and India are allies in the struggle against terrorism, saying, "Counterterrorism cooperation is maturing rapidly, including intelligence sharing, training, finance and antimoney laundering cooperation, improving border security, fighting cyberterrorism and increasing mutual legal assistance." In fact, a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the U.S. and India is awaiting approval by the full Senate, having been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee in the Other Body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from President Bush in his remarks welcoming Prime Minister Vajpayee to Washington on November 9, 2001. "My Administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India, one based upon trust, one based upon mutual values. After all, the Prime Minister leads a nation that is the largest democratic nation in the world." I appreciate the commitment of our President, and I look forward to working with the Administration as the United States continues to improve and expand our relationship with India to the benefit of the people of both of our great nations.

I look forward to working with the Republican leadership and President George W. Bush to shape a new relationship between the U.S. and India in the 108th Congress.

HONORING THOMAS J. SCHILTGEN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen, District Director of the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Office in Los Angeles, who will be retiring in December 2002 after 27 years of service to America's immigrant community.

Mr. Schiltgen is a very special individual, and my district is indebted to his unwavering passion and dedication for the immigrant community endeavoring to become U.S. citizens. The 605 Citizenship Project, a video series designed to help educate immigrants to become U.S. citizens, would not have been so successful if it were not for his willingness to personally work in our communities and go beyond the call of duty to provide comfort and patience to families often intimidated by the intricacies of the naturalization process. His willingness to educate and reach out to underserved communities puts him in a league of his own. He has responded to last minute calls of assistance to matters vital to my community's well being, and each time he has cooperated and provided much needed help.

In addition to his community involvement, Mr. Schiltgen has exercised outstanding management skills in the Los Angeles district I.N.S. office. He has achieved a dramatic reduction in the huge backlog of pending applications for naturalization. Today, citizenship cases in Los Angeles are processed in six to eight months, compared to an average of 24 months prior to his arrival. His energy and vision have made him one of the agency's most respected and valued leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Thomas J. Schiltgen for his understanding leadership and devotion to his work. His devoted commitment to others has earned him praise from the immigrant community, I.N.S. employees, community leaders and advocates who have benefited from his commitment to public service. On the occasion of his retirement, we heartedly congratulate him on his extremely successful career, wish him much success on his future endeavors and thank him greatly for his outstanding efforts to make a difference in the lives and futures of many America's new citizens.

CELEBRATING ALBERT BURSTEIN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man and a great friend of mine—Albert Burstein, who turns 80 years-old on November 22.

Whether it is through his work as partner of his own law firm, his efforts throughout his 10 years as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly to improve our education system and our quality of life as a whole, his many roles in special posts and appointments throughout New Jersey aimed at raising our

levels of education and making our society more just, or in his role as the loving husband of Ruth and father of three terrific children, Jeffrey, Diane, and Laura, Al Burstein is a man of great principle. He represents the best of New Jersey and deserves our highest level of praise.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Al Burstein very well. I first met him after graduating from law school and serving as the campaign coordinator in his race for the New Jersey General Assembly. In between stuffing envelopes, running phone banks, and helping with general campaign tasks, I got to see a man of the highest integrity in action working to make New Jersey a better place. In 1978, Al Burstein ran for the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey, the seat which I now hold. Although he was not elected, Al Burstein always took the high road in the campaign and never lost focus of his goal of improving the lives of New Jersey residents.

I have great and abiding affection and respect for Al Burstein and I wish him the very best as he celebrates his 80th birthday later this month. I know that I join with his family and his many friends and coworkers in wishing him a year filled with happiness, good health, joyful moments, and time for reflection on all of his life's great accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow states with waivers under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, that are set to expire in the next calendar year, to voluntarily extend the length of those waivers for an additional year.

As my colleagues know, the TANF program has been very successful in helping millions of Americans get through difficult times. It is important that Congress build on the success of TANF and reauthorize this program with important changes.

However, as my colleagues know, we have reached the close of the 107th Congress, and we have yet to complete action on a TANF reauthorization bill. TANF expired on September 30 of this year and has thus far been funded under continuing resolutions.

I seek not to criticize one party or another or one chamber of Congress or the other for this delay. The issues at heart in this debate are important and decisions should not be made in haste. However, inaction on TANF reauthorization this year has created the potential that several states will be unfairly penalized and my constituents, and those of many other Members, will pay a steep price.

Prior to 1996, welfare policy in the United States was administered through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Under this program the Secretary of Health and Human Services had the authority to grant waivers to states to allow them to create innovative welfare programs that met the goals of welfare but not the specific requirements of AFDC.

In the early 1990's, as it became clear that AFDC was failing to meet its goal of helping